

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION

## Concern

### People don't know about muskoxen.

Although there is traditional knowledge indicating that muskoxen were present at some time in the past in VGFN traditional territory, they have been gone so long or were so scarce that there appear to be virtually no stories about them. There is, however, considerable interest in the community about muskoxen and much speculation about their behaviour, their impact on caribou and their value as a food resource. People would therefore appreciate information about muskoxen which would in turn assist in making management decisions in the future.

### Solution Improve understanding of muskoxen.

The keen interest of the community in muskoxen should have a positive focus by providing means for people to learn about this animal and share their observations and opinions. No action items were identified for this but suggestions were: a) put up a map in a prominent location where people could record their sightings (*See Muskox*), b) the Renewable Resources Council should put together some basic information about muskoxen (like five of the most common questions and answers) for the community, c) the WMAC (NS) muskoxen plan has an educational component and VGFN could request to be put on the list for receiving such material.

## Concern

### Kids don't know elders' teachings.

This was an important theme at the Old Crow Elder's meeting held in October 2000 in preparation for this plan. The meeting report stated that, "Concern was expressed that the youth no longer spend time listening to and learning from elders and that their traditional ways are being lost."

### Solution Improve opportunities for elders to teach kids.

The community has recognized that lifestyles have changed dramatically and thus occasions for elders to teach youth have become very limited. It is therefore necessary to find modern opportunities for elders to interact with youth and teach them about their culture and the land.

## Actions

Responsible parties, Time line

VGFN/NYRRC  
2001/02

Look into regular traditional knowledge programs with community and youth.

Suggestions for this action item were:

- a) continue the traditional knowledge schools program
- b) involve elders teaching at Big Caribou Day
- c) make a presentation about this plan to the older school kids.

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Blueberries

